

19 JUL 1974

## Not From the KGB, Thank You

There is an odd story in the news. Detente may be working too well in one respect. At the cordial invitation of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce, American firms are planning to sell to the Soviet Union the latest electronic marvels of law-enforcement technology.

Among them is a device described as a fraud-proof identification system, which detects fraudulent ID or credit cards through the use of light patterns that cannot be duplicated. Other equipment includes a voiceprint identification machine, new and improved lie detectors, cameras for night photography, and similar gear.

These are all crime-detecting aids, and the Soviet customer most interested in acquiring them is the KGB, the Soviet secret police. The problem is that the definition of crime in the Soviet Union is flexible. It stretches to political dissent. One congressional critic of the proposed sale objected that "this equipment could be used for the suppression of dissent and minorities. It would be like exporting gas chambers to Hitler." Yes.

Under existing laws, U.S. companies are free to exhibit these wares wherever they like, and can export them without licensing from the Department of Commerce's Office of Export Administration. That needs correcting.

A vice president of a Chicago firm that specializes in helping American companies exhibit their

products in Moscow, describing the planned display of police equipment there next month as "a normal-type trade show," emphasized that the KGB does not have to rely on the United States for these wondrous gadgets.

That translates to, "If evil is unavoidable, let's take our cut of the profits." Not in this case, please. Not from the KGB.